

ROCKY MOUNTAIN SPOTTED FEVER

I. IDENTIFICATION

- A. **CLINICAL DESCRIPTION:** A tick-borne illness caused by *Rickettsia rickettsii* characterized by fever, myalgia, headache, and petechial rash (frequently on the palms and soles).
- B. **REPORTING CRITERIA:** Clinical diagnosis with laboratory confirmation.
- C. **LABORATORY CRITERIA FOR CONFIRMATION:**
- Isolation of *R. rickettsii* from a clinical specimen (rarely performed), **OR**
 - Demonstration of positive immunofluorescence in tissue biopsy, **OR**
 - Fourfold or greater change in antibody titer to *R. rickettsii* antigen by immunofluorescent antibody (IFA), complement fixation (CF), latex agglutination (LA), microagglutination (MA), or indirect hemagglutination (IHA) test in acute and convalescent specimens ideally taken three weeks or more apart, **OR**
 - Positive polymerase chain reaction (PCR) assay to *R. rickettsii*.
- D. **KENTUCKY CASE DEFINITION:** A clinically compatible illness that is laboratory confirmed.

II. ACTIONS REQUIRED / PREVENTION MEASURES

- A. **KENTUCKY DISEASE SURVEILLANCE REQUIRES PRIORITY NOTIFICATION:** REPORT TO THE LOCAL OR STATE HEALTH DEPARTMENT in a time period not greater than 1 business day of the identification of a case or suspected case.
- B. **EPIDEMIOLOGY REPORTS REQUESTED:**
1. Kentucky Reportable Disease Form – EPID 200 (Rev. Jan/03).
 2. Rocky Mountain Spotted Fever Case Report - CDC 55.1 (Rev. 01/2001)
- C. **PUBLIC HEALTH INTERVENTIONS:**
- Obtain travel history for the month preceding onset of symptoms to determine site of probable exposure.
 - Patient education as needed to minimize future tick exposure.

III. CONTACTS FOR CONSULTATION

- A. **KENTUCKY DEPARTMENT FOR PUBLIC HEALTH, SURVEILLANCE AND HEALTH DATA BRANCH:** 502-564-3418.

- B. KENTUCKY DEPARTMENT FOR PUBLIC HEALTH, COMMUNICABLE DISEASE
BRANCH: 502-564-3261.
- C. KENTUCKY DEPARTMENT FOR PUBLIC HEALTH, DIVISION OF LABORATORY
SERVICES: 502-564-4446.

IV. RELATED REFERENCES

1. Chin, James, ed. ROCKY MOUNTAIN SPOTTED FEVER. In: Control of
Communicable Diseases Manual. 17th.ed. Washington, DC: American Public Health
Association, 2000: 430-432.
2. Pickering, LK, ed. Rocky Mountain Spotted Fever. In: 2000 Red Book: Report of the
Committee on Infectious Diseases. 25th ed. Elk Grove Village, IL: American Academy
of Pediatrics, 2000: 491-493.